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LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the present response to the allegations made by the representative of the Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) regime to the United Nations in his two letters (S/1996/1007 of 5 December 1996 and S/1997/11 of 6 January 1997), both addressed to the President of the Security Council and circulated to member States as documents of the Council.

In the annex to the first letter, the representative of the NIF regime itemized a long list of what he referred to as "Eritrean acts of aggression" allegedly perpetrated between 1 February and 15 October 1996. The annex to his second letter contains another detailed list of similar acts, said to have taken place between 15 October and 31 December 1996. These baseless charges by the NIF regime are purposely fabricated to divert the attention of the international community from the grim course of events prevailing in the Sudan. It is needless to stress that the general situation in the Sudan is progressively deteriorating, with the consequent effects of increasing dissatisfaction of and rising opposition by the people.

This volatile situation, which is shaking its foundation, remains the actual concern that the NIF regime is desperately labouring to disguise by accusing others. Having said this, I would like to reiterate that my Government does not have any involvement in the acts enumerated above in the two letters of the representative of the Sudanese regime to the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amdemicael KAHSAI
Permanent Representative

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